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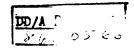
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General Services Administration Federal Supply Service Washington, DC 20406



MAR 19 1986

Dear Management Official:

Much has been said through all the media about the life-saving benefits of buckling the seat belt when you are in an automobile. A number of insurance companies currently have campaigns and so do several individual Federal agencies.

We are concerned in the General Services Administration (GSA) that not enough has been done across the board to encourage Federal employees to join in this important effort—important for the safety of them and their loved ones, and important for the economy.

We believe not enough can be said or done to encourage drivers and passengers to protect themselves by wearing seat belts--we call them, "life belts." As managers, we are motivated to ensure the safety of the employees we supervise from both a humanitarian and a practical standpoint.

Statistics provided by the National Safety Council indicate that nearly two out of every three deaths occurring on the job are motor vehicle related and the same holds true for two out of every three deaths occurring off the job. Vehicle related deaths and serious injuries, both on and off the job, are responsible for a large percentage of the total amount paid in workers' compensation claims nationwide, not to mention the productive time lost from work and home life.

The Department of Transportation estimates that if only 70 percent of all Americans regularly wore seat belts, nearly 10,000 lives would be saved and over 300,000 serious injuries avoided each year.

The Federal Government, along with private industry, must actively work toward reducing these human and economic losses by implementing employee programs that promote the consistent use of automobile safety belts.

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Suggested actions were outlined in the GSA Bulletin Federal Property Management Regulation (FPMR) G-156, issued April 23, 1982, which advised Heads of Federal agencies to: "...require the use of approved personal protective equipment, approved safety equipment, and other devices necessary to protect employees." (29 Code of Federal Regulations 1960.8 (c)). Regulations should be issued requiring their employees operating or riding in a Government-owned or personal vehicle on official business to wear both seat and shoulder belts at all times. The driver should also instruct passengers to fasten their seat and shoulder belts before operation."

We ask that you join us in a Governmentwide campaign to encourage our employees to buckle up, both on the job and at home. We are sending along a sample letter and ask that you send it to all your employees. If you have not done so, you should issue a regulation requiring that seat belts be buckled when employees are riding in cars on Government business. We refer you to FPMR G-156 issued by GSA in April 1982. We further refer you to the attached source list for more information on the benefits of buckling up.

We are excited about this effort in GSA and we feel it is our obligation as the Federal Government's travel expert and Federal fleet manager to share our concerns with you. If we can be of assistance to you in initiating a vehicle safety campaign in your agency, please contact Bill McDade, our Director of Liaison and Assistance Division, on (703) 557-8600.

Sincerely,

DONALD C./J. (

Commissioner

Mr. Harry E. Fitzwater Deputy Director of Administration Central Intelligence Agency Washington, DC 20505

Enclosures

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

SUBJECT:

Buckling up for your safety

Statistics show that automobile accidents are the fourth leading cause of death today, and that each of us can expect to be in a crash once every 10 years. For 1 out of 10 of us, it could be a serious or fatal accident.

Wearing a seat belt is mandatory when riding or operating a vehicle on Government business, whether it is a Federal motor vehicle or your privately-owned vehicle. Why not carry this requirement a step further: make a commitment to buckle up and protect yourself and others who ride with you on your time as well?

I know the usual arguments of the remaining holdouts who do not wear belts: you don't like the feel of the belt, you don't drive often or travel very far from home. Contrary to what you might think, an accident can happen at anytime and anywhere.

Do yourself a favor, don't start the engine until your seat belt is buckled. It just might save your life!

Sincerely,

//Signature//
Head of Agency

SOURCE LIST FOR INFORMATION ON VEHICLE SAFETY

Automotive Safety Foundation 1776 Massachusetts Ave., NW Washington, DC 20036 (202) 426-0123

Highway Users Federation for Safety and Mobility 1776 Massachusetts Ave., NW Washington, DC 20036 (202) 857-1200

Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association of the United States, Inc. 1620 "I" St., NW Washington, DC 20006 (202) 862-3900

National Safety Council 1705 DeSales St., NW Washington, DC 20036 (202) 393-0250

U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Washington, DC 20590 (202) 426-1828